Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01795 091007Z

51
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /094 W
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R 090912Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3335
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1795

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NL
SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH TRADE UNION FEDERATION: THE FNV

REF: THE HAGUE 171

1. SUMMARY: BOARDS OF NVV AND NKV HAVE ASKED THEIR MEMBERSHIP TO VOTE BEFORE JULY 10 ON THEIR PROPOSAL TO ORGANIZE NEW FEDERATION OF DUTCH TRADE UNIONS (FNV) AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1974. FNV WOULD HAVE 25 AFFILIATED UNIONS AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION. ITS CREATION WOULD MEAN DISCONTINUANCE OF PRESENT TRADE UNIONS UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION THEREBY EXCLUDING CNV FROM REGULAR CONSULTATION WITH NEW ORGANIZATION. NKV AND NVV RANK AND FILE EXPECTED TO RATIFY
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PAGE 02 THE HA 01795 091007Z

LEADERSHIP RECOMMENDATION. END SUMMARY.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

2. NVV (DUTCH FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS) AND NKV (CATHOLIC TRADE UNION FEDERATION) ANNOUNCED APRIL 5 THAT THEY HAVE ASKED THEIR RANK AND FILE TO VOTE BEFORE JULY 10 ON LEADERSHIP'S PROPOSAL TO INAUGURATE NEW FEDERATION OF DUTCH TRADE UNIONS (FNV) ON OCTOBER 1, 1974. IF RANK ANF FILE AGREE, WIM KOK, PRESIDENT OF THE NVV, WILL SERVE AS FNV PRESIDENT FROM 1974 TO 1977. WILLEM SPITE, NKV PRESIDENT, WOULD BE FNV VICE CHARMAN. NKV GENERAL SECRETARY PIET VAN HOUT WOULD SERVE FNV IN SAME CAPACITY. JOE KAPPER, NVV, WOULD BE TREASURER OF NEW ORGANIZATION. BOARD OF FNV WILL CONSIST OF 15 MEMBERS, 9 NVV AND 6 NKV. SINCE NKV BOARD PRESENTLY NUMBERS 8 MEMBERS, NEW FNV BOARD WILL CONSIST OF 17 MEMBERS FOR TIME BEING. IN 1977 FNV WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO SWITCH PRESIDENCY TO NKV LEADER. NO DECISION MADE ON LOCATION FNV HEADQUARTERS. THERE IS PROPSAL FOR NEW BUILDING IN WOERDEN. IF THIS PROVES TOO EXPENSIVE, FNV MAY USE NVV BUILDING IN AMSTERDAM. (FYI: KOK TOLD LABOR REPORTING OFFICER THIS WAS MOST SENSIBLE SOLUTION BUT HE REALIZED IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR NKV. END FYI.)

3. DURING APRIL 5 PRESS CONFERENCE,KOK AND SPIT SAID FNV WOULD DISCONTINUE INSTITUTIONALIZED COOPERATION WITH CNV. THE PRESENT "OVERLEGORGAAN" (UMBRELLA ORGAINZATION) WILL BE ABOLISHED SINCE IT DOES NOT ACCORD WITH FNV OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATION IN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. KOK AND SPIT SAID, HOWEVER, FNV COULD STILL HAVE "AD HOC" TALKS WITH CNV. CREATION OF FNV WILL ALSO MEAN ABOLITION OF TWO FOUNDATIONS OPERATED JOINTLY BY NVV, NKV AND CNV, ONE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ONE FOR DEVELOP-MENT COOPERATION.

4. FOR TIME BEING NVV AND NKV WILL CONTINUE TO PERFORM CERTAIN FUNCTIONS SEPARATELY THESE ARE TRAINING, EDUCATION AND INFORMATION. ALL PERSONNEL OF NKV AND NVV, HOWEVER, WILL BE EMPLOYED BY NEW FNV. SUPERFLUOUS DEPARTMENTS WILL BE ELIMINATED AND UNCLASSIFIED

SUPERFLUOUS PERSONNEL PHASED OUT VIA RETIREMENT, OTHER EMPLOYMENT, ETC. FNV WILL HAVE A FEDERATION BOARD, AND FEDERATION COUNCIL TO DETERMINE POLICY AND EXERCISE GENERAL CONTROL. THE FEDERATION CONGREAS WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ORGAN OF THE NEW FEDERATION. ORGANIZATION WILL BE ESSENTIALLY SAME AS NOW EXISTS IN NKV AND NVV.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

5. CNV PRESIDENT LANSER EXPRESSED PROFOUND DISAPPOINT-
MENT WITH ARRANGEMENT CONTEMPLATED BY FNV. HE HAD
EXPECTED ABOLITION OF UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION BUT WAS
DISAPPOINTED NO SUBSTITUTE FORM OF INSTITUTIONALIZED
COORDINATION POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT IF FNV
CONTEMPLATES ONLY AD HOC COORDINATION WITH
CNV THIS MEANS NKV AND NVV HAVE UNILATERALLY EXCLUDED
COOPERATION WITH CNV. CNV LEADER ALSO DENIED CHARGES
THAT THE FEDERATION OF THREE TRADE UNION GROUPS FAILED
PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF CNV'S DEMAND THAT ALL FEDERATION
PROPSALS BE FIRST DISCUSSED WITH CNV. LANSER
REITERATED THAT ALL CNV EVER WANTED WAS POSSIBILITY
TO CONSULT THEIR OWN PEOPLE IN CERTAIN CASES, PROCEDURE
WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN RESORTED TO "QUITE INFREQUENTLY."

6 COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL, CNV DROPPED OUT OF
FEDERATION FORMATION EFFORT IN MID JANUARY WHEN
CNV PRESIDENT LANSER (PROPONENT OF FEREATION) COULD
NO LONGER KEEP HIS ORGANIZATION IN LINE ON ISSUE. IN
FEBRUARY 14 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, NVV PRESIDENT
KOK REGRETTED CNV DECISION BUT THOUGHT NKV AND NVV
SHOULD GO FORWARD WITH THEIR PLANS. KOK SAID FRANKLY
RELIGIOUS-BASED TRADE UNIONS HAD "NO CHOICE". POINTING
TO NKV'S DECLING MEMBERSHIP, STATIC CNV MEMBERSHIP,
AND INCREASED NVV MEMBERSHIP, KOK SUGGESTED RELIGIOUS
BASED TRADE UNIONS WERE INCREASINGLY IRRELEVANT. IN
DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 14, NKV PRESIDENT
SPIT TOOK HARD LINE ON CNV, SAYING LANSER HAD NOT
BEEN FRANK WITH HIM OR KOK ON EXTENT OF OPPOSITION
TO MERGER WITHIN CNV. SPIT DID NOT ADDRESS QUESTION
OF RELIGIOUS-BASED TRADE UNIONS BUT STRESSED WASTE
OF RESOURCES, EFFORT, ETC. CURRENT TRADE UNION
ORGANIZATION IN THE NETHERLANDS ENTAILED. IF AS
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PAGE 04 THE HA 01795 091007Z

EXPECTED UNIONS APPROVE LEADERSHIP'S PROPOSAL AND
FNV INA
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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